

Club 11/15

What are your tweens doing this summer? Those kids in between the age of daycare but not quite old enough to get a job? They may be old enough to stay “home alone”, but we know how that movie turned out!

It's important to keep our tweens busy because idle hands and minds can lead to trouble. The ages between 11 and 15 can be awkward because those kids are starting to reject childish things and embrace teen/young adult behaviors, but they aren't mentally and emotionally ready for adult responsibilities. These young people still need structure and guidance, especially during the summer when there's a lot of free time. Tweens tend to be naturally impulsive and fearless. They will look to experiment and try new things, so parents need to find positive outlets for them.

Club 11/15 is a program offered at the Teen Center in Hampton and it's basically a cool camp for kids between the ages of 11 and 15. Parents can drop their kids off and feel comfortable that they're leaving them in a safe place, but your kids won't mind because it's a fun place to hang out. The Teen Center already offers a Cyber Café, game room, gym, indoor track and basketball court, but Club 11/15 activities also include arts & crafts, games, tournaments, swimming and trips once a week. They also have special enrichment programs that will make learning fun this summer.

We want our kids to enjoy their time out of school, but this is also prime time to have fun learning and exploring! Club 11/15 can help them do that through their Summer of Innovation program. Sponsored by NASA and the VA Air and Space Museum, this program will offer 30 hours of cool STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experiments like training like an astronaut and making a Nano Rover.

This is also a crucial age for girls and boys to learn about their bodies, gain self-esteem and personal power. Alternatives, Inc. will present two different health and body image programs called Thrive and Power Up for Girls. The VA Cooperative Extension Service will also offer healthy living and nutrition programs. Another highlight is the Teen Center Art Show that will feature the art that the kids have made throughout the summer. Club 11/15 has so much to offer! Your tweens will have fun this summer and learn new things in a safe environment.

Club 11/15 will take place weekly starting June 18th through August 17th at the Teen Center located at 300 Butler Farm Road in Hampton. The hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the fee is \$80 a week or less depending on the number of tweens you enroll, whether it's the shortened 4th of July week or if your kids are in summer school and can only attend Club 11/15 for a few hours.

If you'd like to know more about Club 11/15, contact Pattie Bye at 727-2723 or PBye@Hampton.gov.